

AMHERST COUNCIL ON AGING MINUTES
October 25, 2007

Members Present: Daniel Clapp, Elsie Fetterman, Janet Gorth, Doris Holden, Rosemary Kofler, Tom McAuley, Stephanie O'Keeffe, Barbara Sutherland, David Yaukey

Select Board Liaison: absent

Staff Present: Nancy Pagano (Director/Program Director), Maura Plante (Assistant Director/Services), Marlene Barnett (Program Coordinator), Karen Erman (Administrative Assistant)

Guests: Marga Coler, Marge Babb, Lisa White (Director, Senior Health Services)

Welcome:

Barbara Sutherland, Chair, called the Council on Aging meeting to order at 9:11 AM.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the September 6, 2007 meeting were approved and accepted.

Senior Trust Treasurer's Report:

Doris provided a handout indicating a balance of \$93,934.52 as updated through September.

NEW BUSINESS

Free Legal Services Grant:

Nancy reported that there is a grant available through the Bar Association to pay for certain types of legal assistance for low-income elders. The information will be presented in the next Senior Spirit.

PVTA Transition Plan:

Nancy informed us that the PVTA will undergo a transition between December 13 and 15 to the new carrier, Hulmes Transportation. Hulmes will come to the Senior Center for a public hearing and to make ID cards on December 10 at 1:30PM. There will be no changes in costs or services when Hulmes takes over.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

40th Anniversary of COA Social on December 14th, 3-5PM:

Nancy has compiled a list of all past COA members. She would like the party to be a festive time for everyone and solicited suggestions from members for activities at the party. Nancy wondered if people would want to hear about the history of the Senior Center or look at slides of how it used to look.

Sub-Committee needed to Plan 40th Anniversary of the Senior Center:

Nancy would like some COA members to work with her in planning a celebration for the 40th anniversary of the Senior Center next year.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Highland Valley Elder Services:

Barbara reported the last meeting consisted of an overview presentation of all the HVES activities for the year. It was a good year.

Senior Health Services:

Lisa White provided a written summary of the activities of the newly reopened Senior Health office. She has seen 11 new patients, with 10 repeat visits from those patients, for a total of 21 contacts (which included 3 home visits). At this point, Lisa is focused on getting to know people, understanding their health history and needs, and building a relationship with her patients. Organizationally, Lisa is focused on compiling policies and procedures, using model forms from

Shirley Packard (Senior Health Advisory Group) and the previous Nursing Center, in order to itemize information and maintain good records.

Nancy pointed out that Lisa has staffed two Tuesday morning blood pressure clinics and that she has helped several elders with urgent health care needs. Nancy encouraged members to attend the Grand Opening of the Senior Health Services event on Monday, October 29 at 2 PM.

Steffanie asked if the Health Services Center would overlap with other health services such as the Ear Irrigation and Foot Care Clinics. At issue is the fact that Lisa provides service at no cost, but patients do have to pay for the foot and ear care, a hardship for some. Lisa said she would certainly do blood pressures even though the BP clinic exists, but she would continue to refer patients to the other clinics and not try to duplicate those services. **Nancy** reminded folks that Wellness Grants are available for eligible elders who cannot afford the foot care or ear care fee.

Friends Update:

Minutes of the last two meetings of the Friends Group were distributed. **Doris** said they will be mailing requests for donations. The bank account has been established. Nancy said there will be an enclosure in the December *Senior Spirit* for membership in the Friends Group, suggesting an optional \$25 membership contribution. Nancy will present Article VI before the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee. The Select Board and the Finance Committee have unanimously supported the Article.

The COA meeting adjourned at 9:32 AM, to be followed by the COA retreat.

The next meeting will be held on December 6, 2007 at 9 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Kofler, Secretary